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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China/Hong Kong/Japan

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SUBJECT Chinese Communist Attempts to Sell Iron Ore

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1. The Chinese Communist Government has 30,000 metric tons of iron ore, about 55% iron from the Chinlingchen (118-11, 36-49) deposits, which it wants to sell or barter to Japan. Six hundred tons were shipped to Hong Kong as a trial sample; 400 tons are in Jarline's East Point warehouse, 100 tons in a warehouse which is opposite the Yacht Club and 100 tons in Kowloon. The Chinese Communist Government also is willing to supply iron ore on a monthly basis or on a long-term contract.
2. Chinese Communist officials are so sure of taking Hainan soon that they are already discussing what should be done with the Hainan iron ore deposits*.

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Comment. [redacted] although the Nationalists sold the 30,000 tons of ore to E. Ott & Company, Hong Kong, it was never shipped from Tsingtao and, as of July 1949, the Communists had refused Ott's request to sell the ore to Japan.

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Comment. On 6 February 1950 Radio Tokyo said that several parties were offering the same Hainan over to Japan.

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